

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

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INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN

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C O R R E C T E D C O P Y (MRN 11377 VICE 1137)

USEEC

EO 11652: NA

TAGS: UR

SUBJECT: PRAVDA COMMENTATOR ON EUROPEAN INTEGRATION AND EC
PARLIAMENT

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1. SUMMARY: PRAVDA AUG 5 CARRIES A LONG COMMENTARY BY A SENIOR
POLITICAL COMMENTATOR, GEORGIY RATIANI, ON THE EC PARLIAMENT AND
EUROPEAN INTEGRATION. THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THE PIECE LIES IN
THE DETAILED TREATMENT OF THE ISSUE BY A COMMENTATOR
OF RATIANI'S LEVEL AND THE CLEAR INDICATION WHICH HE GIVES
THAT THE BASIC SOVIET CONCERN IS NOT WITH THE PARLIAMENT, BUT

WITH ECONOMIC AND ABOVE ALL THE POTENTIAL MILITARY INTEGRATION AND THE ROLE THE FRG WOULD PLAY IN A MILITARILY INTEGRATED EUROPE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN A LONG HISTORICAL EXPOSITION RATIANI POINTS TO THE FIRST STEPS AT EUROPEAN INTEGRATION IN THE POST-WAR PERIOD TO SHOW THAT THE ECONOMIC AND MILITARY ELEMENTS WHICH WERE PRESENT IN THE EARLIEST STAGES (E.G., THE EDC IDEA) ARE STILL PRESENT. HE GIVES MAJOR ATTENTION TO THE EUROPEAN PARLIAMENT AND THE DIRECT ELECTION, WHICH HE SEES AS A STEP BY THE "NINE EUROPEAN NATO (SIC) COUNTRIES" TOWARD A "MILITARY-POLITICAL ALLIANCE WITH A SUPRANATIONAL MECHANISM WHICH WILL LOGICALLY BECOME A BRANCH OF THIS AGGRESSIVE ORGANIZATION" (NATO).

3. RATIANI DEVOTES A PARAGRAPH TO BERLIN AND THE EC PARLIAMENT ELECTIONS AND TWISTS THE QUESTION OF BERLIN PARTICIPATING TO THE POINT OF SUGGESTING THAT THE "ELECTION" WHICH WILL TAKE PLACE IN THE FRG IS BEING "EXTENDED" TO WEST BERLIN. HE THEN PARTIALLY RETREATS FROM THIS CONTENTION BY CLAIMING THAT "DIRECT OR INDIRECT PARTICIPATION OF WEST BERLIN IN THE ELECTIONS" CONTRAVENES THE QA. INTERESTINGLY, HE DOES NOT COMMENT ON WSB PARTICIPATION IN THE PARLIAMENT ITSELF, BUT ONLY ON ITS PARTICIPATION IN THE ELECTIONS.

4. CONCERN FOR THE ROLE OF THE FRG IN AN INTEGRATED EUROPE SHOWS IN RATIANI'S DESCRIPTION OF THE FRG AS THE COUNTRY HOLD-
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ING THE "DOMINANT POSITION" IN EUROPEAN ECONOMICS AND FINANCE AND HAVING THE "STRONGEST ARMY IN WEST EUROPE". HE THEN GOES ON TO DESCRIBE THE FRG AS IN THE FOREFRONT OF THOSE PUSHING INTEGRATION BEYOND THE PARLIAMENT AND ON TO A "EUROPEAN CONSTITUTION" AND "MILITARY INTEGRATION" IN THE FRAMEWORK OF LITTLE EUROPE. MEANWHILE THE U.S. AND NATO ARE PORTRAYED AS MANEUVERING TO GET THE INTEGRATED EUROPEANS UNDER THEIR INFLUENCE.

5. COMMENT: RATIANI'S TREATMENT OF THE INTEGRATION PROCESS AND SOVIET CONCERN FOR IT IS THE MOST EXTENSIVE THAT WE HAVE YET SEEN IN THE SOVIET PRESS. IT IS QUITE CLEAR THAT HE VIEWS THE EC PARLIAMENT ELECTION SERIOUSLY AS A "THRESHOLD" IN THE INTEGRATION PROCESS. HIS MAJOR CONCERN, HOWEVER, IS FOCUSED ON THE FORCES WHICH HE SEES AS ULTIMATELY CONTROLLING THE INTEGRATED STATES ONCE THEY HAVE SURRENDERED SOME SOVEREIGNTY IN THE ECONOMIC, POLITICAL AND MILITARY AREAS. THE ONLY VICTORS IN THIS PROCESS WILL BE THE FRG, THE U.S., NATO, AND THE "MONOPOLIES", ACCORDING TO RATIANI.

6. WE HAVE LONG SUSPECTED THAT THE SOVIET CONCERN FOR THE BERLIN PARTICIPATION IN THE EC PARLIAMENT WAS DISPROPORTIONATE

TO THE BERLIN ASPECTS OF PROBLEM AND WAS PARTIALLY AN INDICATOR
OF CONCERN OVER
INTEGRATION IN GENERAL. RATIANI'S ARTICLE TENDS TO SUPPORT
THIS. UNABLE TO MOVE DIRECTLY AGAINST THE TRUE THREAT THEY
PERCEIVE, INTEGRATION, THE SOVIETS APPEAR TO BE HAMMERING IN
FRUSTRATION AT BERLIN'S PARTICIPATION IN THE PROCESS.
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Message Attributes

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